

City of New Castle Tree Commission Meeting
October 1, 2012, 5:30 p.m.
City of New Castle Town Hall

Members Present: John Lloyd, Chairperson
Erv Thatcher
Nancy Coning
Susan Keyser
Chip Patterson
Tom Truman

Members Absent: Mark Miller
Fran Peden
Erv Thatcher

Mr. Lloyd convened the meeting at 5:40 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Minutes – A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 2012 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Keith Adams is interested in relocating the Zelcova trees at 110 Delaware Street. He would like to relocate them and replant another species at his own expense. He does not like their location. They are healthy trees and are on the trimming list. Mr. Adams gave no reason for his request.

203 E. 11th Street – There is a silver maple with a serious defect (large cavity). A large limb was previously removed prompting the problem. Mr. Lloyd said the tree is weakened and should be removed. It is a street tree. Ms. Keyser made a motion to remove the silver maple at 203 E. 11th Street. Mr. Truman seconded and the motion was approved.

A small Linden tree at the corner of South and 7th Street that appears to have a root problem. Mr. Lloyd suggested checking to see if girdling is a problem. The tree is surrounded by concrete causing a heat problem (reflection from sun). Russ Carlson suggested waiting to see what happens before taking action. The consensus was to follow Mr. Carlson's suggestion.

A cherry tree at 156 E. 4th Street is a low tree and residents would like to have part of the tree cut back to avoid contact with vehicles. Cutting the main leader will jeopardize the tree's health. Mr. Lloyd asked fellow Commissioners to look at the tree and discuss at the next meeting.

There is a dead maple tree in front of 807 Washington Street that needs to be removed. Ms. Keyser made a motion to remove the dead maple tree in front of 807 Washington Street. Mr. Truman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

In front of The Arsenal two (2) large ash trees are in need of raising branch levels to clear the building, pruning dead wood and trimming. A motion was made by Mr. Patterson to raise the branch level, prune the dead wood and trim small branches. Mr. Truman seconded and the motion was approved.

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There are four (4) arborvitae in front of the police department that are experiencing severe bagworm infestation. One (1) is dead and another is almost dead. Bartlett will look at them this week. Cost is estimated at \$150-\$200 to treat the trees for bagworms in the Spring of 2013. The trees look good and we should replace the ones we need to remove. Discussion followed about anchoring the trees to keep them from falling over and stabilize them and soil composition. Cost for this work could be \$250-\$500 and Mr. Lloyd believes the trees are worth the expense. Ms. Keyser noted if the soil is bad it may be better to plant new trees. She also noted the shrubbery there is not doing well. Mr. Lloyd suggested fertilizing the shrubbery.

A motion was made by Ms. Keyser to authorize Mr. Lloyd to consult with Bartlett and make decisions regarding treatment/replacement of the trees at the police department. Mr. Truman seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Member's Report

Ms. Keyser was approached by a neighbor with a concern about Mr. Hemphill removing trees in the open space near his home. Dorsey Fiske was made aware of the issue and the Trustees are reportedly going to discuss the matter. Mr. Lloyd said vegetation and trees in the area are under the purview of the Corps of Engineers. (*Lengthy discussion followed.*) Mr. Lloyd will speak with Ms. Fiske.

A follow up is needed with Mrs. Marini concerning implementing the plan she submitted to the Tree Commission two (2) years ago.

Mr. Truman has been approached by Rick and Sally Brown asking for the status on their locust tree. The tree is on the list. He was approached by a resident about fixing the bricks in front of the parish house on Harmony Street where Zelcovas are planted. It was suggested the church be contacted about fixing the bricks.

Grant Application – An update was provided by Mr. Lloyd. We were not successful in securing the grant. He will be submitting a requisition this week to the City for work by Tree, Inc.

Elm Treatment – Elm trees at the Lunt's house and at Battery Park were not treated.

Adjournment

There being no more business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie

Debbie Turner
Stenographer